

Council Of Bishops & General Board Meeting

Hilton LAX Airport Hotel

June 20-21, 2017

THE CONNECTIONAL MINISTERS' SPOUSES, WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS  
ORANIZATION PLUS P.K.'S OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISOPAL CHURCH

## President's Report



Mrs. Lula Shaw Cleckley, International President



## President's Report

**Bishop McKinley Young, Senior Bishop; Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President of the General Board; Bishop Clement W. Fugh, Host Bishop, Bishop Frank Madison Reid III, Chair of the Commission on Social Action; Bishops of the Church; Episcopal Supervisors; General and Connectional Officers; Mrs. Jackie DuPont Walker, Consultant/Director, Social Action Commission; College Presidents and Deans; Members of the General Board, my Sisters and Brothers in African Methodism: Greetings.**

**Greetings in the Mighty Joy of Jesus, Our Lord.**

**It is such a wonderful opportunity to stand before you this day, June 21, 2017, and give you a report of my stewardship as Connectional President of the Ministers' Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK's.**

**The Connectional Ministers' Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK's is a network/support system for those families who serve the church in the preaching/pastoral ministry.**

**For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2Timothy, 1:7) *It is with great honor that I give my very fourth report to this body, as President of this outstanding organization. Our year has been fruitful as we strived to strengthen the clergy family as we walk closer to God. There were times when we felt stretched to the very end, but we know who's in charge, and He promised to never leave us alone.***

**The Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK's team of officers continues to encourage and empower the clergy families globally. We have dedicated ourselves to provide distinctive forums and proficient advice to create an appreciation and understanding of the role of the Minister's spouse. Activities are constantly being planned and coming to fruition to address the needs and concerns of this organization.**

**The 2014 -2017 goals are:**

- **Continue to build clergy family unity across the connection**

**The clergy families are reaching across their districts to support and strengthen each other. We reached across the globe this year and increased our membership including new members from the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Districts. To God Be the Glory!! Membership awards were given: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 7<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District; and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District. Hats off to each district for each of you increased your numbers. Praise God!!**

➤ **Provide a strong support ministry for our children**

Our PK Advisor has provided opportunities for the preachers' kids to express themselves as well as network with each other from District to District. Much more is planned for the Bishops' Council Meeting which will be held in the Fifth Episcopal District. Stay tuned for further directions.

The 2016 Summer Newsletter highlighted several of our PK's and their accomplishments. Dara Broadnax, a PK from the 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District, won the 2016 Preachers' Kids \$2500.00 scholarship and is now attending University of Pittsburg. Charlie Benson, 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, received \$500 Book award and is attending Butler Community College, Eldorado, Kansas. Mallari Miller, 12<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, received \$500 book award and is now attending the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas and Toni-Allison Jordan Banks, 8<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, received \$500 book award and is now attending University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Great job, PK's and May God continue to bless you in your new pursuit!!

➤ **Enhance involvement of widows and widowers**

Extra efforts are being made to reach out to our widows and widowers. They received cards, visitations as well as invitations to breakfast, lunch or dinners. Our goal is to always be there to offer assistance when needed. They are recognized at the annual luncheons and presented with special gifts of love.

➤ **Increase membership through creative activities**

We welcomed a new Membership and Recruitment Chair to strategically plan and execute new ideas that will produce an increase in membership. The membership list is posted on our website.

➤ **Provide resources and opportunities for clergy life enrichment**

The Connectional Education Chair provides timely webinars on the website ([ameconnmswawopk.com](http://ameconnmswawopk.com)). These webinars have included information on breast cancer, financial planning and healthy relationships. Please view the website regularly.

**Other Accomplishments**

The Clergy Family Awards Breakfast was held July 9, 2016, during the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the AME General Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We were grateful for the large

attendance, including many of our Bishops, Supervisors, General Officers, clergy families and visitors. Our speaker for the occasion, Rev. Dr. Cecelia Bryant, recently retired Supervisor, brought the house down with the words of God. She gave us much food for thought and we thank God for her.

The First Lady / First Gentleman Contest was held and the winner was announced. Seventh Episcopal District, Ruth Murray, was crowned Connectional First Lady. Second Place winner was the 6<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District First Lady, Sharon Williamson and the Third Place winner was Peggy Mitchell, 10<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District First Gentleman, William Rassmann, was crowned Connectional First Gentleman and Stanley B. Jackson, 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, was Second place winner. We congratulate each of the winners and thank each Episcopal District for all they do to make our organization successful.

Other awards given during the First Lady/First Gentleman Contest were:

**Attendance Awards**

First Place: Seventh District  
Second Place: Fourth District  
Third Place: Eleventh District  
Trendsetter: First District

**Membership Awards**

First Place: Eleventh District  
Second Place: Seventh District  
Third Place: First District

As the year progressed, the Eighth Episcopal District was hit with a damaging flood. Much of the district was under water. Seven clergy families were displaced with very little left of their homes. Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK's stepped up to the plate and was able to send \$3500 to those clergy families. Our prayers for them will continue as they strive to put their lives in order.

The Leadership Planning Retreat was held in December 2-4, 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee, hosted by Bishop and Supervisor Leath. Episcopal President Virginia Brown and her team did a wonderful job of hosting. Everything needed was provided. We were visited by Supervisors Green, Mitchell, Reid, McAllister and of course, Dr. Leath. Bishop Leath and Bishop Reid III, filled us with great spiritual leadership and the Word of God. CONN-M-SWAWO + PK's founders, Rev. John and Dr. Dorothy Owens and several of the founding members as well as charter members were in attendance. Mrs. Ora Easley, the second president of Conn-M-SWAWO + PK'S was also in attendance. We felt honored to have them in our midst.

The workshops were outstanding, loaded with tons of information. The entertainment was filled with laughter. We will never forget comedian Broderick Rice.

During the year, I was able to attend all connectional meetings, six annual conference luncheons and two District retreats. My goal is to visit each Episcopal District retreat or annual luncheon/breakfasts throughout 2017.

May 9, 2017, I was invited to the Nineteenth Episcopal District, Johannesburg, South Africa, by Bishop and Supervisor Kawimbe. I was given the opportunity to lead workshops for the clergy spouses, widows and widowers of the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Districts. This visit was a first for the President of CONN-M-SWAWO + PK'S and it was truly a blessing for all of us. The trip allowed us to fellowship, share and learn from each other. A new urgency came about to increase our membership and sealed the bond that bind us together. Much gratitude is given to the Bishop and Supervisor Kawimbe.

We continually thank all of our bishops of the church. A special thanks is offered to our Supervisors. It is because of your empowerment, our organization continues to grow. It's always a joy to have you in attendance. Our anticipation grows for the words of wisdom that you deliver.

We continue to thank and give appreciation for Founders, Rev. John and Dr. Dorothy Owens, other founding members and charter members for their assistance.

This year, we welcomed a new Commission Chair, Bishop Frank Madison Reid III and Supervisor Marlaa Reid. We thank them for their eagerness to assist us in any way they can. We hope to continue to build the bond we have begun.

And to all of you, thanks. You make it possible for me to shine.

I wish you all good health, wealth, wisdom and love.

To God be the Glory,

*Lula Shaw Cleckley*

Lula Shaw Cleckley,

Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK's President

